



**Acrylic Spa Dosages and Care of Acrylic
Saniware**

TECHNICAL SERVICE REPORT

Subject: Acrylic Spa Dosages and Care of Acrylic Saniware

IMPORTANT ADVISORY NOTE

Introduction

Spa water needs to be clean and hygienic. The removal of suspended solid matter from the spa water is done by the spa filter, but the hygiene of the spa is controlled by the chemicals and pH. It is most important to maintain correct dosage levels and pH values, as apart from hygiene considerations, excessive acidity and high residual chlorine levels may eventually attack the pigments within the acrylic surface, ultimately causing discoloration or bleaching.

Chemicals

Recommended sanitizer chemicals to be used in the spa are either chlorine or bromine tablets. The chlorine comes in the form of white 20 g trichloroisocyanuric acid spa tablets, (NOT 190 g swimming pool tablets), and the bromine in the form of 12,5 g bromochlorodimethylhydantoin tablets. These tablets produce powerful bleaching agents. Neither tablet should be placed directly into the spa water, nor should either tablet be allowed to come into direct contact with the acrylic surface, since bleaching and even blistering of the acrylic surface may occur. Such damage is permanent. The tablets must be placed inside a floating perforated container, which floats on the water surface. This prevents direct contact with the acrylic surface. Bromine is also available in a floating dispenser.

Dosage is about one tablet per week, but this is highly dependent on spa usage. Residual chlorine should not be more than 1-2 PPM and should be checked to ensure excessive levels do not build up. Bromine tablets are not as pH dependant as chlorine, and may be used if the user is allergic to chlorine.

pH Level

This is arguably the most important aspect of spa hygiene. pH should be checked and corrected on a regular basis. Ideal pH range is 7,2 to 7,6. A pH below seven is acidic, and above seven is alkaline. Seven is neutral. Acidic pH will result in corrosive water, a sour smell, and irritation of the eyes and skin.

Alkaline pH may also irritate the skin, and may promote algae growth in warm water. Trichloroisocyanuric acid tablets slowly lower the pH, and this should be countered by the addition of small doses of sodium bicarbonate or Soda Ash. Covered unused spas may over time build up both acidity and chlorine levels if left filled and tablets added frequently. If left unchecked, such conditions may eventually lead to bleaching of the spa surface. Such bleaching is permanent.

Temperature

Ideal spa water temperature is: summer 26 C; winter 32 C. Never allow the spa water temperature to exceed 40 C.

Other Chemicals

Do NOT use pool chemicals in a spa or bath. Chemicals such as hydrochloric acid (pool acid), sulphuric acid and dry granular calcium hypochlorite may damage or bleach the spa. Such bleaching is permanent.

Use only specified fragrances purchased from a spa dealer. Do NOT use ordinary bath salts in a spa.

Do NOT use body lotions such as creams, suntan lotion, and body oils in a spa.

Do NOT use abrasive cleaners, bleach, solvents, or any other strong chemicals to clean a spa. The use of solvents may not only damage the acrylic surface, but may also depassivate the surface, allowing dyestuffs from cleaning agents and fabrics to stain the surface.

Emptying Spas

Depending upon use, the spa water should be replaced every 30 to 90 days. If a spa is to be unused for a period, it should rather be drained and left empty.

Cleaning of Baths and Spas

The most effective way to clean acrylic spas and baths is with warm soapy water, or a warm liquid detergent solution. Always ensure that the cleaning cloth is clean, soft, and free from hard particles of dirt which may cause scratching. Rinse and dry, preferably with a chamois or soft cloth, after washing. The use of any solvents such as methylated spirits, turpentine, white spirits or proprietary window cleaning products is neither necessary nor recommended. Do not use abrasive cleaners, as they may mar the high gloss finish of the acrylic.